

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Kim B. Shedd, Tungsten Commodity Specialist

U.S. Geological Survey

989 National Center

Reston, VA 20192

Telephone: (703) 648-4974, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: kshedd@usgs.gov

Loren K. Duncan (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7972

Fax: (703) 648-7975

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

TUNGSTEN IN MAY 1999

U.S. net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder produced from hydrogen-reduced metal powder, was 27% lower during the first 5 months of 1999 than net production during the same period in 1998, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Data for U.S. scrap consumption, consumption of intermediate products by material and end use, and U.S. imports and exports for May 1999 will be published in a subsequent issue.

Note

All data in this report have been rounded to no more than three significant digits. Totals and percentages were calculated by using unrounded data.

Update: June Prices

Prices for tungsten ore in dollars per metric ton unit from Metal Bulletin are listed below. Prices in dollars per short ton unit were converted from metric ton unit prices and rounded to the nearest dollar. These prices represent combined prices for wolframite and scheelite ores with a minimum tungsten trioxide (WO_3) content of 65%. The prices for June 1 to 30 are as follows:

Low—\$33/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$30/short ton unit WO_3)

High—\$44/metric ton unit WO_3 (\$40/short ton unit WO_3)

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate			Reported scrap consumption	Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/		Net production 3/	Reported consumption 4/	Stocks, end of period 5/
1998: p/							
May	W	615	511	263	735 r/	736	1,400
June	W	284	742	327	767	725	1,510
July	W	330	846	247	689	798	1,340
August	W	178	652	312	854	762	1,410
September	377	115	554	252	814	770	1,330
October	W	108	787	301	723	746	1,360
November	W	158	503	223	680	703	1,400
December	449	811	514	178	621	614	1,340
January-December 6/	3,210	4,750	XX	3,300	9,630 r/	8,980	XX
1999:							
January	W	129	519	169	630	696	1,340
February	W	156	509	189 r/	630	702	1,340
March	W	714	490	176 r/	673	690	1,350
April	W	90	449	176	657	627	1,340 r/
May	W	NA	447	NA	665	NA	1,370
Total 6/	W	NA	XX	NA	3,260	NA	XX

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; not included in total or year-to-date. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Reported by consumers.

3/ Net production of tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, chemicals, and other products.

4/ Includes estimates.

5/ Reported by producers.

6/ Does not include withheld data.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS OF
AMMONIUM PARATUNGSTATE, BY MONTH 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Production	Consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/
1998: p/			
May	W	695	433
June	W	747	448
July	W	657	496
August	W	846	501
September	W	751	531
October	W	796	552
November	W	414	586
December	W	718	603
January-December 3/	838	9,210	XX
1999:			
January	486	797	616
February	W	733	538
March	486	773	499
April	W	704	504 r/
May	499	718	544
Total 3/	1,470	3,730	XX

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; not included in total or year-to-date. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Producers and consumers.

3/ Does not include withheld data.

TABLE 3
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product	Net production 2/				Stocks at end of period		
	1999				1999		
	1998 p/	April	May	Year to date	1998 p/	April	May
Metal powder	4,600 r/	287	284	1,380	719	711 r/	735
Tungsten carbide powder (made from metal powder)	5,040	370	381	1,870	576	583	585
Cast and crystalline carbide powder; other	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
Chemicals	W	W	W	W	46	45	45
Total 3/	9,630 r/	657	665	3,260	1,340	1,340 r/	1,370

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; not included in total.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Gross production less quantity used to make other products in table.

3/ Does not include withheld data.

TABLE 4
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Ores and concen- trates	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro- tungsten	Metal powder	Tungsten carbide	Other 2/	Total	Total year to date
1998 p/	4,750	1,920	599	459	944	3,110	11,800	XX
1999:								
February	156	154	79	8	71	194	662	1,040
March	714	551	93	43	52	327	1,780	2,820
April:								
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	12
Belgium	--	--	--	(3/)	--	--	(3/)	1
Bolivia	28	--	--	--	--	--	28	93
Canada	--	--	--	(3/)	41	--	42	166
China	--	81	89	23	7	188	388	1,810
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)
Estonia	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
France	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	1
Germany	--	1	--	3	5	6	15	92
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	4
India	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Ireland	--	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	(3/)
Israel	--	--	--	--	5	1	6	30
Japan	--	--	--	3	--	2	5	14
Kazakhstan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	447
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	8	--	8	8
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	14
Mongolia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	23
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Portugal	41	--	--	--	--	--	41	122
Russia	21	--	24	--	2	18	64	474
Rwanda	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Singapore	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)
South Africa	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)
United Kingdom	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	93
Total	90	82	113	30	68	218	600	3,420
Total, year to date	1,090	851	285	92	249	854	3,420	XX

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes other unwrought tungsten, wrought tungsten, calcium and other tungstates, tungsten oxides, tungsten chlorides, other tungsten compounds, ash and residues containing mainly tungsten, and other mixtures of inorganic compounds containing tungsten. Tungsten content estimated in part.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in April 1999 totaled 44 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Ores and concentrates 2/	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder 2/	Tungsten carbide	Other 3/	Total	Total year to date 4/
1998 p/	10	287	851	1,240	467	2,860	XX
1999:							
February	(4/)	--	58	47	52	157	339
March	1	1	37	72	43	154	493
April:							
Afghanistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Argentina	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Australia	--	--	1	2	(4/)	3	6
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Belgium	--	35	--	--	16	51	58
Bolivia	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Brazil	--	--	(4/)	--	1	1	9
Canada	--	--	6	16	3	24	80
Chile	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
China	--	--	(4/)	--	(4/)	(4/)	2
Colombia	--	--	(4/)	(4/)	--	(4/)	(4/)
Costa Rica	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Finland	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
France	--	--	(4/)	--	(4/)	(4/)	12
Germany	1	--	20	20	17	57	230
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	(4/)	(4/)	21
Hungary	--	--	--	--	2	2	4
India	--	--	--	(4/)	3	3	19
Indonesia	--	--	--	(4/)	(4/)	(4/)	(4/)
Ireland	1	--	--	1	(4/)	2	3
Israel	--	--	(4/)	15	1	15	42
Italy	--	--	1	5	--	6	33
Japan	--	--	(4/)	1	2	3	29
Korea, Republic of	--	--	(4/)	(4/)	(4/)	1	6
Luxembourg	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Macao	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Malaysia	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Mexico	--	--	1	--	1	2	10
Monaco	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Netherlands	--	--	4	18	(4/)	22	31
Netherlands Antilles	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Norway	--	--	--	--	(4/)	(4/)	(4/)
Poland	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Singapore	--	--	(4/)	(4/)	(4/)	(4/)	3
South Africa	--	--	3	9	--	11	11
Spain	--	--	(4/)	--	(4/)	1	2
Sweden	--	--	27	--	(4/)	27	69
Switzerland	--	--	3	--	(4/)	3	11
Taiwan	--	--	(4/)	--	(4/)	(4/)	6
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Turkey	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
United Kingdom	--	--	2	2	(4/)	4	28
Venezuela	--	--	--	--	--	--	(4/)
Total	1	35	70	88	49	243	736
Total, year to date	3	50	247	258	177	736	XX

p/ Preliminary.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Tungsten content estimated from reported gross weight.

3/ Includes wrought tungsten, ferrotungsten, and other tungstates. Tungsten content estimated in part.

4/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Estimated exports of waste and scrap in April 1999 totaled 37 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.